

Supplementary Table 2. Reasons for study exclusion

Studies	Reason for exclusion
Garg 2009 ¹	This study is not an RCT.
Kim 2015 ²	This RCT compared alpha hydroxy acids plus an additional physical treatment with alpha hydroxy acids alone.
Lee 2006 ³	This study is not an RCT.
Lekakh 2015 ⁴	This study compared chemical peel and the combination of laser and chemical peel.
Nofal 2014 ⁵	This study appears to be not an RCT because of the significant difference between the method section and the abstract about the randomization. And there is no reply from the authors to clarify this inconsistency.
Sharad 2011 ⁶	This study is not an RCT
Wang 1997 ⁷	This study is not an RCT

RCT: randomized controlled trial.

References of the excluded studies:

1. Garg VK, Sinha S , Sarkar R. Glycolic acid peels versus salicylic-mandelic acid peels in active acne vulgaris and post-acne scarring and hyperpigmentation: a comparative study. Dermatologic Surgery 2009;35:59-65.
2. Kim SJ, Baek JH, Koh JS, Bae MI, Lee SJ , Shin MK. The effect of physically applied

alpha hydroxyl acids on the skin pore and comedone. International Journal of Cosmetic Science 2015;37:519-25.

3. Lee SH, Huh CH, Park KC , Youn SW. Effects of repetitive superficial chemical peels on facial sebum secretion in acne patients. Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology & Venereology 2006;20:964-8.

4. Lekakh O, Mahoney AM, Novice K, Kamalpour J, Sadeghian A, Mondo D et al. Treatment of Acne Vulgaris With Salicylic Acid Chemical Peel and Pulsed Dye Laser: A Split Face, Rater-Blinded, Randomized Controlled Trial. Journal of Lasers in Medical Sciences 2015;6:167-70.

5. Nofal E, Helmy A, Nofal A, Alakad R , Nasr M. Platelet-rich plasma versus CROSS technique with 100% trichloroacetic acid versus combined skin needling and platelet rich plasma in the treatment of atrophic acne scars: a comparative study. Dermatologic Surgery 2014;40:864-73.

6. Sharad J. Combination of microneedling and glycolic acid peels for the treatment of acne scars in dark skin. Journal of Cosmetic Dermatology 2011;10:317-23.

7. Wang CM, Huang CL, Hu CT , Chan HL. The effect of glycolic acid on the treatment of acne in Asian skin. Dermatologic Surgery 1997;23:23-9.